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Response.

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

Maertens et al

Serial No. 09/899,082

Filed: July 6, 2001

For: PROCESS FOR TYPING OF HCV ISOLATES

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JUL 11 2002

**TECH CENTER 1600/2900**

Atty. Ref.: 2752-50

Group: 1634

Examiner: WHISENANT

\* \* \* \* \*

July 8, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**REQUEST**

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The Examiner is requested to issue a new, non-final Office Action in the above wherein the pending claims 24-36 are examined. Claim 24 of the present application is found on pages 1-2 of the Amendment of May 28, 2002. Claims 25-36 are found on pages 1-4 of the Preliminary Amendment of July 6, 2001. As indicated in pages 5-6 of the remarks of the Amendment of May 28, 2002, copies of the claims of the copending applications were attached to the Amendment of May 28, 2002. One of these applications is Serial No. 09/899,044, which contains claims 24-45. The attachment of the pending claims in application Serial No. 09/899,044 (i.e., claims 24-45), to the Amendment of May 28, 2002, was clearly indicated on the top header of each page "Pending Clims [sic] in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/899,044". Accordingly, the applicants believe there should have been no confusion as to the pending claims of the

present application (i.e., claims 24-36) and it would appear the Examiner has examined in the present application, at least some of the claims of the copending application.

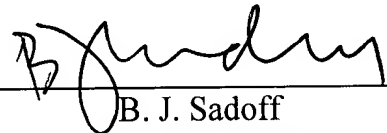
Accordingly, a new, complete, non-final Office Action with regard to the pending claims in the above-identified application is requested, with a clear indication that the date set for responding to the same is the mail date of the new Office Action.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required in this regard.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



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